

Language approved by the Board of Supervisors – 11/26/13
Determination of an exemption from Ordinance 3246

1. Satisfactory evidence that an applicant has secured a vested right to complete site preparation, planting, or sale of product, as described in Section 6.A.4 of Ordinance 3246, consists of all of the following:
 - a. Evidence of a valid well permit applied for and accepted as complete, including payment of any required fees pursuant to Chapter 8.40 of the County Code prior to August 27, 2013.
 - b. Evidence that a well has been installed onsite pursuant to the valid well permit described above, or evidence that a contract was entered into with a licensed well driller prior to August 27, 2013 for installation of the well.
 - c. Evidence that the applicant owned the land prior to August 27, 2013 or had entered into an irrevocable lease for the specific purpose of agriculture prior to August 27, 2013.
 - d. For permanent crop types (i.e. vineyard, orchard, tree fruits, tree nuts) on sites of greater than 20 acres evidence shall be provided to show that at least three (3) of the following requirements have been met prior to August 27, 2013:
 - i. The applicant was contractually obligated to accept future delivery of the plants intended to be planted and all contractual conditions precedent to accepting future delivery of said plants were satisfied including a deposit paid towards the full cost of the contract or the plants intended to be planted (i.e. rootstock, trees) were delivered to the applicant.
 - ii. The applicant has entered into a contract, including paying a deposit towards the full cost of the contract, for the design and installation of irrigation infrastructure (such as tanks, pumps, underground piping) required to supply water to the area intended to be planted or such infrastructure has been installed in the area intended to be planted.
 - iii. Any fencing that is necessary to maintain the crop has been installed as evidenced by invoices for fencing materials dated prior to August 27, 2013 or a contract paid in full for installation of fencing.
 - iv. The applicant was contractually obligated to provide product from the area that is intended to be planted within a specific time frame that would require that the area be planted within the timeframe the Ordinance 3246 is in effect.

- e. For annual crops (i.e. grains, field crops, vegetables, field fruits, flower fields and seed production, ornamental crops, irrigated pasture) on sites of greater than 20 acres, evidence shall be provided to show that at least two (2) of the following requirements have been met prior to August 27, 2013:
 - i. The applicant was contractually obligated to accept future delivery of the plants intended to be planted (i.e. seeds, transplants, plugs) and all contractual conditions precedent to accepting future delivery of said plants were satisfied, including a deposit paid towards the full cost of the contract, or the plants intended to be planted were delivered to the applicant.
 - ii. The applicant has entered into a contract, including paying a deposit towards the full cost of the contract, for the rental of irrigation infrastructure (such as sprinklers, piping) required to supply water to the area intended to be planted, or the applicant owns such infrastructure.
 - iii. The applicant was contractually obligated to provide product from the area that is intended to be planted within a specific time frame that would require that the area be planted within the timeframe Ordinance 3246 is in effect.
- 2. Persons or organizations wishing to rely on the exemption described in Section 6.A.4 of Ordinance No. 3246 to establish new or expanded irrigated crop production, and/or to convert dry farm or grazing land to new irrigated crop production, will provide the evidence described in Section 1 above to the Director of Planning and Building prior to establishment of, and/or conversion of dry farm or grazing land for, new irrigated crop production, who will review the evidence submitted and render a written decision.
- 3. The decision of the Director of Planning and Building pursuant to Section 2 above is equivalent to issuance of a ministerial permit.